Backlog of unemployment at the end of Sixth and Seventh Plans

6341. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of unemployed persons at the end of Sixth and Seventh Plans;

(b) the target set for provision of employment during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(c) the total employment provided during the above period; and

(d) what has been the impact of structural reforms on the rate of growth of employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Backlog of unemployment at the end of Sixth and Seventh Plans was estimated to be around 9 million and 13 million respectively.

(b) No annual targets are set for generation of additional employment.

(c) Employment is estimated to have increased by about 5.8 million, 3.0 million and 5.9 million during 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 respectively:

(d) No specific assessment has been made of the impact of structural reforms on growth of employment.

Natural Resources in the Country

6342. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the growing depletion of natural resources in the country;

(b) whether Government have assessed its implication; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to find out the solution to this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Natural resources of the country like forests, land, water etc. are getting degraded in some areas due to larger biotic pressures.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of depletion of forest resources as well as problems of degradation of land and water in local areas. Programmes have been taken up to increase the perennial green cover under various afforestation schemes by State Governments, supplemented by measures taken up by Central Government. Similarly, the schemes and programmes have been undertaken by Central Ministries/Departments as well as State Governments to arrest top soil erosion, achieving higher in-situ moisture conservation with a view to recharging the underground aquifers etc.

Increase in the number of urban poor

6343. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a marked increase in the number of urban poor from 16 million in 1972-73 to 83 million in 1987-1988,

(b) whether Government have gone into the reasons of this increase and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any measures have been taken since then or improving their economic condition and if so, the details thereof and the results ahieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The number of urban poor as per the Planning Commission estimates has decreased from 47.3 million in 1972-73 to 41.7 million in 1987-88. The number of urban poor as per the Expert